

taxes on the middle class because a small but very loud minority in their conference wanted to prove a point. Now we're back at it again. They want to prevent \$1,500 from being in the hands of the middle class.

My fellow Democrats and I want to keep money in the hands of hard-working Americans by supporting the extension of the payroll tax holiday. We cannot afford to take more risks with the income of 160 million working Americans. In fact, the no-jobs agenda of the Republican Conference has pushed to continue tax cuts for the wealthiest of Americans while not giving breaks to working Americans and the middle class.

I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle if they will please come to the table for a strong and working middle class of America.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS FIGHTING MANDATE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I think that there are millions of Americans today, many American Catholics, who listened intently to the debate that took place on the ObamaCare bill. They weren't really sure about it, but they kept hanging on to a couple of things: If you like what you have, you can keep it, is what the President said. They have found out that's not the way it turned out.

Well, when it came to all of the guidelines that were coming from HHS, don't worry about these. They'll never be mandates. They're just going to be guidelines. They're there for information and instruction.

Well, that didn't come about either, because what has happened, the Catholic organizations and schools and hospitals are being mandated by the Federal Government to violate their religious beliefs and to meet the Federal mandate of providing contraceptives, abortion services, and sterilization services, all in the name of a health care policy.

This is something that needs to be reversed. I stand with the millions of Americans who are fighting this mandate.

EXTEND PAYROLL TAX HOLIDAY

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, our constituents are saying: Here they go again. Don't they get anything right?

What they're talking about is the fact that the payroll tax, the extension of unemployment, and the extension of the SGR, that's all coming up again. Again. After the fiasco of last December, you would have thought we learned our lesson.

Look at what the payroll tax means—160 million will risk losing. They'll have about a \$1,500 tax increase. For those in Hawaii, 700,000 will suffer a \$1,120 a year reduction. What are we doing?

The SGR will increase the cost to our elderly, a 27-percent reduction to their doctor. We call it in Hawaii our kapunas, those who are very important to us. Look at what we are risking for them.

Instead, the focus seems to be: How do we keep money for the ultrarich, that 1 percent? Think about it. The middle class can use the \$1,120 in Hawaii. Let's do it right.

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SPEAK UP, AMERICA

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RANGEL. Well, I think I have some good news. Most Americans believe that when the Congress does not do what they want to happen that they can wait until Election Day, and then they remind us that we let them down. Certainly, I remember when this unemployment compensation and the holiday for taxpayers, as well as the payment of our doctors, was coming up a couple years ago, and it was almost Christmastime. Democrats really thought that, because of the Republican majority, and because they just felt that unemployed people getting compensation meant that they wouldn't look for work, or that they weren't paying enough taxes, or that they didn't want to deal with the question of the doctors—but still, after all of this battle, when the American people spoke up, they didn't wait until Election Day. They got on the phone. They called their House Members, Republicans and Democrats. They called everybody to say that they could not afford a sharp increase in their payroll deductions.

So, do it again, because it really works. You're going to get these extensions. All you have to do is call and demand that you get what you deserve.

THE SMARTER APPROACH TO NUCLEAR EXPENDITURES (SANE) ACT

(Mr. MARKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, America's nuclear weapons budget is locked into a Cold War time machine. It doesn't reflect our 21st century security needs. It makes no sense. It is insane. It's insane to spend \$10 billion building new plants to make uranium and plutonium for new nuclear bombs when we're cutting our nuclear arsenal and the plants we have now work just fine. It's insane that we're going to spend \$84 billion for up to 14 new nu-

clear submarines when just one submarine with 96 nuclear bombs on board can blow up every major city in Iran, China, and North Korea.

It's an insane strategy, but it's America's current plan. And that's why we need a SANE approach to our nuclear weapons budget. Today, I am introducing the SANE Act—the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures Act—with 34 of my colleagues. The SANE Act cuts \$100 billion in spending over the next 10 years on outdated, wasteful nuclear weapons programs over the next 10 years.

Let's cut new nuclear weapons, not the poor, the sick, the children, and the elderly of our country. Support and cosponsor the SANE Act.

REPUBLICAN HYPOCRISY

(Ms. CLARKE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, today we find ourselves in the unfortunate and familiar position of running out the clock on the American people.

The Republican majority seems to have no problem moving Heaven and Earth to preserve tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. However, they seem content to allow taxes to rise for the working poor and middle class. The majority's orthodoxy that tax cuts solve every problem seems not to extend to those that need it the most. This tax hypocrisy has not gone unnoticed by the American people.

Madam Speaker, the 112th Congress has not passed one job-creating bill in the face of this stubbornly high unemployment. And instead of addressing the jobs crisis, they are continuing their assault on the unemployed by threatening to cut off aid to those who would rather have a job in the first place.

I urge the majority to put aside election-year politics and pass a long-term payroll tax extension and extend unemployment benefits, especially in light of their failure to address the need for more job opportunity.

REPUBLICANS PLAY POLITICS WHILE PEOPLE ARE HURTING

(Mr. GRIJALVA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Chair, the clock is ticking, Republicans are playing games, and people are hurting. Republicans care more about their singular goal of defeating Obama in November than helping people that are hurting and helping the middle class. This latest chapter on the extension of unemployment benefit adds to an already sordid and sad story.

Last December, Republicans threatened to lay off over 1 million Americans by refusing to extend unemployment benefits. House Republicans are now pushing a plan that would reduce